

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 22, 2006 has been carefully considered. Within the Office Action Claims 1-22, 24-31 and 37-46 have been rejected. The Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-45. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue the cancelled claims in continuation, continuation-in-part or divisional applications. The Applicant has added new Claims 47-68. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph Rejection

Claim 46 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly not containing subject matter which was described in the specification in such a way as to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to practice the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 46 recites, among other things, a processor configured to receive position signals relating to movement of the manipulandum, the processor configured to output a position based force signal when the manipulandum is sensed throughout a detent and configured to output a predetermined time-based force signal only once when the manipulandum is within the detent. Paragraph 1085 in the Applicant's specification specifically states, "In an alternative embodiment, the predetermined time-based component can be output only once per detent." (Specification, Paragraph 1085). Accordingly, Claim 46 is fully supported by the specification and is thus allowable. For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1-22, 24-31, and 37-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,989,613 to Rosenberg in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,201 to

Levin. This rejection is respectfully traversed, but is nonetheless now moot considering that Claims 1-45 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the Applicant requests the rejection be withdrawn.

New Claims

The Applicant has added new Claims 47-68 which are allowable over Rosenberg and Levin, individually or in combination. Claims 47-68 are fully supported by the specification and do not contain any new matter.

Conclusion

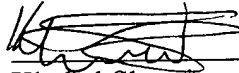
It is believed that this Reply places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Reply is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

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Khaled Shami
Reg. No. 38,745

Thelen Reid & Priest LLP
P.O. Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640
Tel. (408) 292-5800
Fax. (408) 287-8040